

San Francisco, Jan 2<sup>d</sup> 1873

Prof. A. Gray

Dear Sir - I send you to day a Box -  
about one cubic foot - marked "A" by Wells Fargo, & from  
containing Podocarpus Californica or Old Laurel - Quercus  
Chrysolepis or Canyon Live Oak of which a few have  
been sent before - thinking more samples, or a few sp. only for the  
sake of exhibiting varieties in Arboretum - This equals  
the Live Oak (2 varieties) of Florida as Ship's timber  
- proven in Navy Yard here, and highly approved among  
mechanics, Wheelwrights, &c. Great toughness and solidity  
as a shade - never broken by fierce winds. A fine  
clean canopy &c. I have probably written you  
at length before of its merits & will not repeat.

A few more seeds of Cercis occidentalis being  
all I collected at Ukiah recently. Should  
think this very desirable for the Chertal aspect in  
early Spring, and the delicate beauty of foliage at  
other seasons.

If the acorns are frozen they will speedily turn  
black - have used all practicable caution -  
enclosed in Cotton - dry clayey loam - Sawdust outside  
of the inner box - and outer Box enveloped with  
double paper - Should they arrive safely please let me  
know as a guide for the future.

These might have been directed to Prof. Sargent

Should you prefer it I will do so hereafter  
by course any thing desirable sent to  
either address - for Post Office or for  
your friends please make use of them as  
your own.

A little later still I shall send some  
choice seeds not yet collected - e.g.  
*Photinia arbutifolia* and *Arbutus Menziesii* &c.  
or *Madroña Tree* :

In haste

Truly  
Yours  
A. Nelson

Prof. A. Gray  
Cambridge  
Mass

P.S. I did not acknowledge Receipt  
of check for one hundred & Eight <sup>100</sup> on  
Bank of North America it is not too late  
now - will present it to day.

Thank you  
Respectfully  
Yours  
H.C.